

## **"Disqualifications for Christians," Part 4 - 1 Corinthians 10:8 – July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

- Today's teaching will be part four of a series titled, "Disqualifications for Christians."
- By way of introduction, I think it's important I mention that one being disqualified doesn't mean that one can lose their salvation.
- Rather, it means one can lose their rewards in heaven and blessings on earth, which is why Paul is warning the Corinthians.

### **1. Relying on past blessings (Verses 1-4)**

- Paul says the Corinthians were in danger of taking God's past blessings for granted in that it was excusing their sinful carnality.

### **2. Gratifying the lusts of the flesh (Verses 5-6)**

- Paul refers to the Israelites growing tired of Manna and desiring meat to eat instead, which led to their death in the wilderness.

### **3. Indulging in idolatrous revelry (Verse 7)**

- v7 Paul refers to the Israelites worshipping the golden calf after growing tired of waiting for Moses to come back from Mt. Sinai.

### **4. Committing sexual immorality (Verses 8)**

- 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.
- v8 Paul tells them they should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand died.
- What Paul is referring to here is in Numbers 25, when the Israelite men committed sexual immorality with the Moabite women.
- Actually, it's not so much that they committed sexual immorality with the Moabite women; it's more about how this happened.

Numbers 25:1–3 (NKJV) — 1 Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. 2 They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. 3 So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

Revelation 2:14 (NIV) — 14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.

- Kindly allow me to turn a corner of sorts and point out what I see as the take away by way of a personal application to our lives.
- We know from Numbers 25 that this happened, and we know from Revelation 2:14 how this happened, but we don't know why.
- More specifically, why did the Israelites sin sexually with the Moabite women whom Balaam taught Balak to entice them with?
- In order to answer this question, we need to know a few things about Balaam and Balak as it relates to cursing the Israelites.
- Balak, who was king of the Moabites at the time, was terrified of the Israelites who grew in numbers and conquered the land.
- It's because of fear of the Israelites that this King of the Moabites is motivated to send messengers to Balaam seeking his help.
- Balak's fear forces him to take matters into his own hands and hire Balaam to curse the Israelites driving them out of the land.
- After he negotiates his fee, Balaam sets out to pronounce a curse upon the Israelites only to have his donkey try to stop him.
- In spite of God using a donkey to stop him, he continues on and no matter what he tries, he just cannot curse the Israelites.
- The reason that Balaam is unable to bring a curse on the Israelites is because of the configuration of the camp of the Israelites.
- In Numbers chapter two, we're given a very detailed description of the 12 Tribes camped to the East, West, North and South.
- Looking at this configuration, you see that the Israelites were camped in the shape of a cross with the Tabernacle at the center.

Romans 8:1a (NIV) — 1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

- Here's where I'm going with this, there's no curse or condemnation that can be pronounced upon us because of Jesus Christ.
- However, we can bring a curse and condemnation or disqualification upon ourselves, which is exactly what the Israelites did.
- Balak does succeed in his goal of cursing the Israelites but Balaam doesn't bring it upon them, they bring it upon themselves.

2 Peter 2:15-16 NKJV They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet.

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. NKJV

- Here's the bottom line, Satan cannot do anything to us in order to bring about our disqualification, but he tempts us so we do it.
- In other words, when Satan tempts and entices us to sin sexually, we can end up being disqualified and it's by our own doing.
- Herein lies the lesson that we can take away from the text today; simply put, we as Christians can be our own worst enemy.
- The good news is that as Christians, we are not under the curse of the law, because Jesus Christ redeemed us from that curse.

Galatians 3:10-14 NIV 10 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." 11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." 12 The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."